

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8 and 10-12 are now pending.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The limitations of dependent claim 9 have been incorporated into amended claim 1 so that there is now antecedent basis in claim 1 for the subject matter of claim 11. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

Claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carrillo et al. Also, claims 2-3, 11 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Carrillo in view of Jabcon. Further, claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Carrillo in view of Myers and claim 12 was rejected as unpatentable over Carrillo in view of Phelan. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. However, to advance prosecution, the allowable limitations of dependent claim 9 have been incorporated into an amended claim 1 so that the Examiner's rejections have been mooted.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claim 9 contains allowable subject matter. As noted above, to advance prosecution, the allowable limitation of dependent claim 9 have been incorporated into an amended claim 1 and the remaining claims have been revised or canceled consistent with this amendment. It is noted that non-elected and withdrawn claims 6 and 7 have also been canceled to advance prosecution. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to the subject matter of the non-elected invention.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

OISHI et al

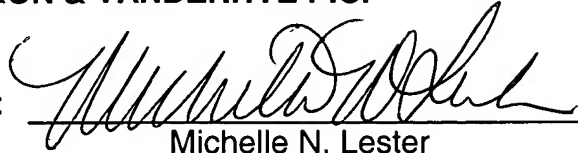
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Respectfully submitted,

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